



## California Public Utilities Commission

505 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco, CA 94102 - [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov)

**Local Government Newsletter** No. 05 August 2004

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**This newsletter is intended to inform you about recent actions undertaken and issues pending before the CPUC that may affect your community.**

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### **Statewide Interest**

**New!** Costs consumers pay for electricity in 2004 have been lowered by \$245 million. Part of the costs consumers pay for electricity covers electricity purchased by the California Department of Water Resources which recently lowered its revenue requirement. In turn, the Commission has passed the reduction on to consumers and will decide, possibly by its September 23 meeting, how to allocate the reduction (proceeding A.00-11-038). More information:

[http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/AGENDA\\_DECISION/38806.htm](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/AGENDA_DECISION/38806.htm).

**New!** Local governments concerned about EMFs in their communities may want to participate in the Commission examination of EMF policies and rules. The Commission has begun a rulemaking to determine if there are improvements that should be made to the Commission's existing rules and regulations concerning electromagnetic fields (EMFs) associated with electric transmission lines or other utility electric facilities (proceeding R.04-08-020). If your office wants to be involved in the proceeding, contact the CPUC Public Advisor's Office for assistance at [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov) or [public.advisor.la@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor.la@cpuc.ca.gov). More information:

[http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/AGENDA\\_DECISION/38935.htm](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/AGENDA_DECISION/38935.htm).

**New!** Elected officials may want to attend or listen to a joint agency meeting to discuss the Energy Action Plan. The CPUC, the Energy Commission and the California Power Authority will meet on Wednesday, September 8, 1:30 to 5 p.m. at the Energy Commission, First Floor Hearing Room A, 1516 Ninth St, Sacramento. Webcast and telephone call-in access will be provided. The agenda includes optimizing energy conservation and acceleration of the State's goal for renewable resources. More information is available in the daily calendar on the CPUC website – link to the daily calendar is on the left side of the page. Contact the Public Advisor's office if you wish to comment at the meeting: 415-703-2074 or e-mail [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov).

### **Southern California Interest**

**New!** – On October 18, the Commission will conduct a hearing on utility diversity programs. The programs include utility purchasing, employment and other areas related to diversity. The full panel hearing will be in downtown Los Angeles. Announcements about the hearing will be issued and posted on our website as plans are finalized. Here's a link to more information about the program: [http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/static/jobs\\_consultant/consultants/wmbe/index.htm](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/static/jobs_consultant/consultants/wmbe/index.htm)

**New!** Mesa Crest elected officials, businesses and residents may want to attend the public meeting for Mesa Crest Water Company's request to increase rates 18.5 %. Commission staff will hold a public meeting to discuss and hear comments from the public about Mesa Crest's request. The

meeting will be on Tuesday, September 21, at 7:00 p.m. at the Crescenta Sheriff Station, 4554 Briggs Avenue, La Crescenta.

**New! Los Angeles' South Bay and Westside 310 area code update.** A proposed decision and an alternate proposal were issued about implementing the 310 area code split. The proposed decision proposes that implementation begin May 28, 2005; the alternate proposed decision requires no implementation at this time. The previously approved plan splits the current area code in two around Imperial Highway and the southern part will receive the new, 424, area code. The earliest the Commission may consider the proposal and the alternate is at its September 23 Commission meeting. Here's a link to the proposed decision:

[http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/COMMENT\\_DECISION/39262.htm](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/COMMENT_DECISION/39262.htm). Here's the alternate:

[http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/COMMENT\\_DECISION/39323.htm](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/COMMENT_DECISION/39323.htm).

**Inland Empire, the 909-951 area code split began July 17.** Callers from or to Western Riverside County should begin using the new 951 area code. From July 17 through October 29, 2004, you may use the new area code or not and the call will go through; beginning October 30, 2004, the 951 area code must be used on calls placed from phones outside the new area code ([proceeding R.95-04-043](#)).

**Reminder! Consumers who registered with the federal "Do Not Call" registry will remain in the list. The number with the new area code will be registered for them during the period when both the old and new area codes work.** More information, about the "Do Not Call" registry:

<https://www.donotcall.gov>. More information including a map and a list of prefixes that will change:

[ftp://ftp.cpuc.ca.gov/areacodes/909\\_951\\_AreaCodeSplitHandout.pdf](ftp://ftp.cpuc.ca.gov/areacodes/909_951_AreaCodeSplitHandout.pdf)

**Long Beach and other Los Angeles South Bay communities. The Commission held a prehearing conference on Sound Energy Solutions' proposal to construct a liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility in Long Beach.** The proposed LNG project would include LNG storage and a regasification facility situated at pier ECHO, formerly the Navy facilities on Terminal Island at the Port of Long Beach.

**Update! A memo outlining the scope and schedule of the proceeding, which will include an opportunity for the public to comment, will be issued soon** and available from our website under this link: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/proceedings/I0404024.htm>. (proceeding I.04-04-024).

**South Pasadena Gold Line pending noise settlement. Update! A limited evidentiary hearing that was scheduled for August 25 in Los Angeles has been rescheduled to August 31 in San Francisco** to allow the parties time to prepare their written testimony after a decision on a motion for protective order that was filed by the Los Angeles to Pasadena Metro Blue Line Construction Authority. Thanks to everyone (175 people) who attended the public hearing and shared their comments and concerns with us (proceeding A.03-01-013, A.03-07-049 and A.03-07-050).

## **Northern California Interest**

**Update! Jefferson-Martin Transmission Project is approved – an important step closer to closing the Bayview-Hunter's Point generation plant.** On August 19 the Commission approved construction of a new, 27-mile, 230 kV transmission line in San Mateo with overhead and underground segments. In response to concern regarding potential health effects from exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF) created by the project, the Commission required several changes to PG&E's EMF management plan, including lowering the depth of the underground lines and arranging conductors in a triangular configuration to reduce EMF levels. A combination of the Jefferson-Martin project and additional transmission reinforcements north of the Martin substation and south of the Jefferson station should help ensure the closure of the Hunter's Point Power Plant, which will be decided by the Independent System Operator ([proceeding A.02-09-043](#)). More information:

[http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL\\_DECISION/39122.htm](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL_DECISION/39122.htm).

**New! Ownership of Curtis Water Company has been transferred to Kings County.** The current receivers of Curtis Water Company cannot afford to make the improvements needed to correct water quality and quantity problems existing for its customers in the El Rancho subdivision in the City of Hanford. The transfer will resolve the problems and customers will continue to receive service at reasonable rates. More information is available in the Commission decision, D.04-08-043 [http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL\\_DECISION/39274.htm](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL_DECISION/39274.htm).

**New! Bakersfield received approval from the Commission to construct four at-grade crossings.** The new at-grade crossings, where streets intersect railroad tracks rather than crossing above or below them, are a part of Bakersfield's general plan for community growth and they will meet Commission safety requirements for railroad crossings. More information in the Commission decision: [http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL\\_DECISION/39142.htm](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL_DECISION/39142.htm).

**New! Roseville received Commission approval to continue its Automated Horn pilot project.** Roseville may continue the pilot that places a horn at a railroad crossing which activates as a train approaches, rather than having the horn on the locomotive sound through the neighborhood as the train approaches. The city contends that this approach reduces the noise the community experiences while maintaining safety at the railroad crossing. Commission staff will monitor the pilot and make recommendations as necessary. However, federal rules about automated horns are expected in December this year and once they are in place, the City will have to comply with those requirements. More information in the Commission decision: [http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL\\_DECISION/39124.htm](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL_DECISION/39124.htm).

**New! Larkfield and Sacramento elected officials and customers of California American Water Company may want to comment on the water company's request to raise rates in those areas.** The Commission will hold public hearings in Santa Rosa on September 29, and Rancho Cordova on September 30 to listen to comments about the company's request to increase rates to cover operating costs and to combine districts to spread those costs among more customers. If the rate increase *and* combining districts is approved by the Commission, Sacramento residential customers will see the monthly average bill of 2,000 cubic feet of water increase 17%, from the current \$25.96 to \$30.44 a month in 2005, with additional increases of 13% in 2006 and 4% in 2007. If the rate increase is approved and the districts are *not* combined, Sacramento customers will see a 14% increase in 2005 and additional increases of 8.5% in 2006 and 4% in 2007. In Larkfield, if the increase *and* combining of districts is approved, the Larkfield residential customer's monthly bill of 2,000 cubic feet of water will increase 12% from the current \$65.09 to \$72.88 in 2005 and will decrease 6% in 2006 and 3% in 2007. If the increase is approved but the districts are *not* combined, the same residential Larkfield bill will increase 23% in 2005, with additional increases of 9% in 2006 and 2% in 2007. See the Community Calendar in this newsletter for hearing times and places (proceedings A.04-04-040 for Sacramento and A.04-04-041 for Larkfield).

**New! Monterey and Felton businesses and residents - California American Water Company has asked to consolidate these two districts.** The water company wants to combine these two districts to spread those costs among more customers. If the districts are combined, the revenue collected from Monterey's customers would increase 0.8% or \$412,000 in 2005 and would increase up to \$810,000 or 0.7% through 2019. Revenues collected from Felton customers would decrease by 20% or \$257,000 in 2005 and continue to decrease to 27% in 2019. Although Public Participation Hearings have not been scheduled as of issuance of this newsletter, elected officials and the public may still comment. E-mail the Public Advisor at [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov), referring to proceeding A.04-08-012.

**New! Placer County to build a grade separated crossing.** Placer has received approval from the Commission to construct the Bickford Ranch Road overpass to cross over Union Pacific Clark Tunnel as part of the new Bickford Ranch housing development. More information in the Commission decision: [http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL\\_DECISION/39118.htm](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL_DECISION/39118.htm).

## **Upcoming Commission business meetings – Sep 2, September 23, and October 7.**

Most items discussed at the meetings are distributed publicly 30 days in advance of the respective meeting. Read, print and download decisions that are issued through our “Official Documents” page, selecting “Currently Open for Comment.” Here’s the link to the official documents page: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/static/official+docs/index.htm>. The Agenda for a business meeting is posted on the website 10 days before a meeting and at the meeting you may comment on most items on the agenda. Contact the Public Advisor for specifics. Here’s a link to the website. <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov>.

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## **Community Calendar –**

Here is a list of workshops and public meetings, which your community may want to follow or participate in. Since items could be added or removed daily, you may want to access our **daily calendar** for complete information. Also you can get on the “Information Only” list for any of our proceedings and be notified of meetings, ruling and decisions on the proceedings you select. Also if you have any questions, contact our **Public Advisor’s Office**.

Wed., Sep 8, 1:30 - 5 p.m.  
Joint agency meeting      The CPUC, Energy Commission and the California Power Authority will hold a joint meeting to discuss implementing the Energy Action Plan. The public may attend and comment at the meeting, or listen in to the webcast or telephone hook-up. The agenda is posted on each agency’s website (access our daily calendar). **Energy Commission first floor Hearing Room A, 1516 Ninth Street, Sacramento.**

Tues., Sep 21, 7 p.m.  
Public Meeting      Commission staff will hold a public meeting to hear comments from the public about Mesa Crest Water Company’s request to increase rates. **Crescenta Sheriff Station, 4554 Briggs Avenue, La Crescenta**

Wed., Sep 29, 7 p.m.  
Public Participation  
Hearing      The public is invited to comment on California American Water Company’s request to combine the Sacramento and Larkfield Districts and increase rates. **John B. Riebi School Multipurpose Room, 315 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa.**

Thurs., Sep 30, 2 & 7 p.m.      The public is invited to comment on California American Water Company’s request to combine the Sacramento and Larkfield Districts and increase rates. **Cordova Recreation and Park District, Building 1, 2197 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova.**

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**A word about our website:** CPUC posts its public documents on its website. You can access them by searching through the [Official Documents](#) page (link on the left) or by using the search engine linked on the right. If you want information about participating in formal proceedings, the [Public Advisor’s](#) page can help you (link under “quick hits”). The [home page](#) lists information in the CPUC spotlight and it provides a link to special announcements on other important issues. A [Consumer Information Center](#) (link on the left) is loaded with information about utility programs the commission has authorized. The [News Room](#) (link on left) provides press releases and other information to the media. Our [industry divisions](#) have posted numerous industry-related decisions, presentations, reports and other information on their pages (see Regulated Areas selection on the left).

If you have problems finding the documents you need, call or e-mail us and we’ll help you.

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If you have questions about anything in this newsletter, please e-mail Kyle DeVine at [kyl@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:kyl@cpuc.ca.gov). If you wish to participate in a CPUC proceeding, have questions about a proceeding, want to automatically receive CPUC-issued documents, or want to comment at a Commission meeting, our Public Advisor's Office is here to help.

Contact us at:

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